

Appln. No. 10/606,872

Reply to Office Action Mailed October 21, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and re-examination are hereby requested.

The specification has been amended to include Step 138 shown in FIG. 10.

Reconsideration of a change to the title is respectfully requested. It is felt that the title is descriptive of the invention to which the claims are addressed.

Before discussion the claims and how they distinguish over the prior art perhaps it might be helpful to first review one feature of applicants invention.

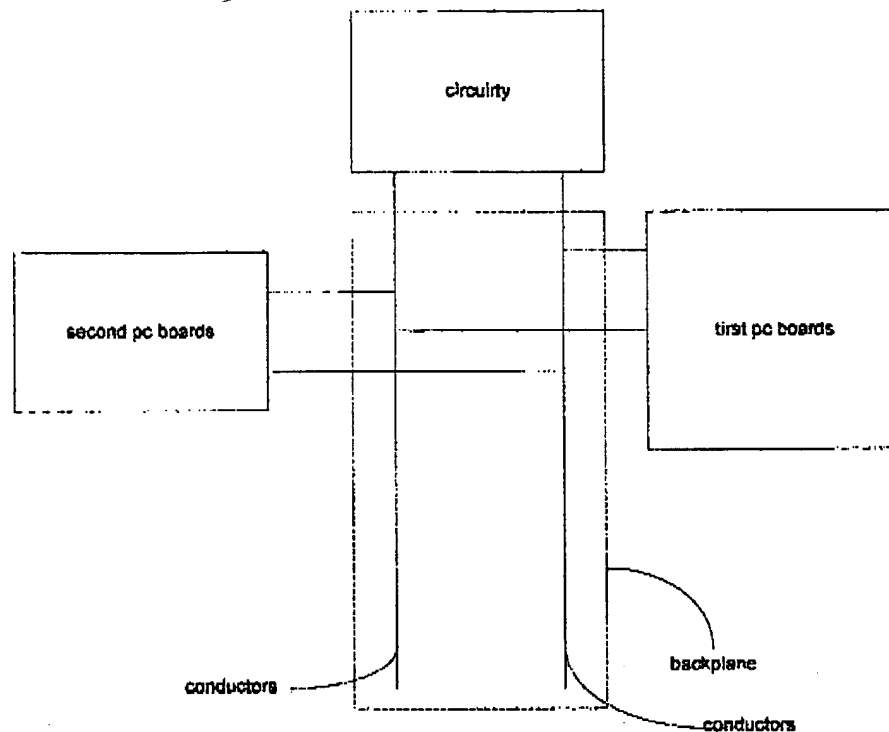
More particularly, claim 1, as amended, points out that the system includes:

- a backplane having a plurality of conductors;
- a first plurality of printed circuit boards plugged into the backplane, each one of the first printed circuit boards having a plurality of electrical contacts, each one of the electrical contacts providing an indication of an incapability of an electrical component on such one of the printed circuit boards, each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane;
- circuitry connected to the plurality of conductors for converting the operating incapability indications provided by the plurality of printed circuit boards into logic signals on the plurality of conductors;
- a second plurality of printed circuit boards plugged into the backplane, each one of the second plurality of printed circuit boards having a decoder responsive to the logic signals on the plurality of conductors for selecting an operating characteristic for electrical components on the second plurality of printed circuit boards, such selected operating characteristic being compatible with operating characteristics of the electrical components on the first plurality of printed circuit boards.

As shown in the diagram below, the backplane conductors are connected to three elements: (a) the circuitry that develops the logic signal; (b) the first printed circuit (pc) boards; and (c) the second pc boards.

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Referring now to Krontz, Patent Publication 2004/003155 A1, it appears that the Examiner considers the slot speed detector 208 in fig. 2 as applicant's "circuitry". If such is Examiner's construction, then Krontz does not have the three elements shown in the drawing above connected to the conductors because the speed detector is connected between the cable and the slots

Referring now to the claims, claim 1 points out that each one of the first printed circuit boards has a plurality of electrical contacts, each one of the electrical contacts providing an indication of an incapability of an electrical component on such one of the printed circuit boards, each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane, thereby distinguishing over Krontz,

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Claim 3 points out that a first plurality of printed circuit boards plugged into the backplane, each one of the first printed circuit boards having a plurality of electrical contacts, each one of the electrical contacts providing an indication signal representative of a predetermined operating incapability of an electrical component on such one of the printed circuit boards, each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane, thereby distinguishing over Krantz.

Claim 5 points out that each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane, thereby distinguishing over Krantz.

Claim 7 points out additionally that each one of the plurality of contacts is connected to ground potential when such contact provides an indication of operating speed incapability; otherwise such contact is open circuited. Such feature is not described in Krantz.

Claim 12 points out each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane thereby distinguishing over Krantz.

Claim 17 points out that the operating incompatibility thereby distinguishing over Krantz.

Claim 18 points out that the method includes: plugging an additional printed circuit board having an electrical component thereon into the provided backplane, the electrical component on such additional printed circuit board being incompatible with the speed of the electrical components on the plurality of printed circuit boards; and electrically inhibiting electrical coupling the electrical component on the additional printed circuit board from the electrical components of the plurality of printed circuit boards. As pointed out in the patent application, in response to the error message, the directors 24<sub>1</sub>-24<sub>M</sub> will have the decoders 54 thereof disable the SERDES sd8 coupled to the newly inserted, albeit illegal memory board, here in this example in FIG. 9, the memory board 22<sub>n+1</sub>. Thus, the operation is electrically performed by electrical circuitry, e.g., decoders

Claim 19 points out that the method includes providing a backplane having a plurality of conductors with a plurality of printed circuit boards plugged into the backplane, each one of the printed circuit boards having a plurality of electrical contacts, each one of the electrical contacts providing an indication of a predetermined operating incapability of an electrical component on such one of the printed circuit boards, each one of such electrical contacts of the first plurality of printed circuit boards being electrically connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of conductors of the backplane; and converting the operating incapability indications provided by the plurality of printed circuit boards into logic signals for the plurality of printed circuit boards, thereby distinguishing over Krontz.

Claim 21 points out that the operating incompatibility is operating protocol thereby distinguishing over Krontz.

In the event a petition for extension of time is required by this paper and not otherwise provided, such petition is hereby made and authorization is provided herewith to charge deposit account No. 05-0889 for the cost of such extension.

In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

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